REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are pending. The amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter is added by their entry.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly "indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." Applicants traverse.

The Examiner's suggestions for amending the claims to correct informalities are gratefully acknowledged. Adoption of some of his suggestions moots certain rejections. The chemical process of "reducing" is not an obvious process as alleged on page 3 of the Action. Applicants disagree and are unaware of any prior art or case law that holds any reductive process involving a novel and nonobvious combination of substrate and product to be obvious.

Applicants request withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection because the pending claims are clear and definite.

Having fully responded to all of the pending rejections contained in this Office Action, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit an early Notice to that effect. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Gary R. Tanigawa/
Gary R. Tanigawa
Reg. No. 43,180

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor Arlington, VA 22203-1808 Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100